

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 COA-02 COME-00 SMI-01 L-03 EB-11

SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 EUR-25 /124 R

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R 221529Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106879

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEMB, EFIS, JA, US

SUBJECT: WHALING - PELLY AMENDMENT APPLICATION

REF: STATE 098702

EMBASSY PASS TRUEHEART

1. AT MEETING WITH AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU CHIEF OKAWARA AND DCM YAMAZAKI MAY 21 DEPASST SEC SNEIDER REFERRED TO LIKELIHOOD OF PELLY AMENDMENT APPLICATION AS RESULT OF CONTINUED JAPANESE WHALING ACTIVITIES. SNEIDER EMPHASIZED THAT MATTER COULD BECOME "FIRST CLASS POLITICAL PROBLEM" ONCE MANDATORY CERTIFICATION ACTION INITIATED AND URGED GOJ RECOGNIZE SERIOUSNESS OF WHALING ISSUE.

2. ACCORDING TO OKAWARA, GOJ FISHERIES AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THEY HAVE STRONG SCIENTIFIC BASIS JUSTIFYING THEIR SUSTAINABLE YIELD FIGURES AND CONTINUED LIMITED CATCH ON
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THAT BASIS. HE SAID GOJ HAD BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION THAT REACTION TO JAPANESE WHALING ACTIVITIES WAS HIGHLY EMOTIONAL

ONE LIMITED TO ONLY SMALL SEGMENT OF US PUBLIC. SNEIDER CONCEDED EMOTIONAL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM BUT REPLIED THAT IWC QUOTA DECISIONS, WHICH ONLY JAPANESE AND SOVIETS HAD FAILED TO HONOR, HAD NOT BEEN MADE ON EMOTIONAL BASIS BUT RATHER ON STRENGTH OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE. IN ANY CASE, CONTINUED GOJ FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH IWC QUOTAS ALMOST CERTAIN TO RESULT IN APPLICATION OF PELLY AMENDMENT WHICH COULD

JEOPARDIZE IMPORTATION OF \$230 MILLION OF JAPANESE FISH PRODUCTS.

3. OKAWARA ASKED WHAT US REACTION HAD BEEN TO RECENT GOJ NOTE OFFERING VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS ON SALMON. SNEIDER REPLIED THAT GOJ EFFORT WAS APPRECIATED BUT THAT ISSUE OF WHALES COULD NOT BE ISOLATED IN POPULAR MIND, PARTICULARLY IN ALASKA, FROM BRISTOL BAY SALMON AND OTHER FISHERIES PROBLEMS. CONGRESS LIKELY TO RESPOND TO ALASKAN SENTIMENTS AND MAJOR POLITICAL DISPUTE WOULD RESULT. HE URGED OKAWARA RECOGNIZE IMPLICATIONS OF MANDATORY CERTIFICATION UNDER PELLY AMENDMENT PROVISIONS. OKAWARA AGREED THAT WHALING ISSUE WOULD REQUIRE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY GOJ BEFORE JUNE IWC MEETING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHALING, SPECIES PROTECTION, WHALES, FISHING LIMITS, FISHING AGREEMENTS, FISH CONSERVATION, MARINE MAMMALS, PELLY AMENDMENT, FISHERIES MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE106879
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JWCAMPBELL:FMC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740128-0555
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740526/aaaaawrx.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 098702
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHALING - PELLY AMENDMENT APPLICATION
TAGS: SENV, EFIS, JA, US, IWC-1
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005